

PARKER

FAMILY.

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A BRIEF HISTORY  
OF THE  
ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS  
OF  
SCARBOROUGH PARKER,  
ONE OF THE PIONEERS OF  
JAY, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MAINE.  
BY  
MILLARD M. PARKER, A. M.

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## P R E F A C E.

THE incidents and events of history are almost always relished by old and young. Occasionally we meet with those whose attention is so completely engrossed in the present, they have no thought to bestow on the past; but the great majority of people who have enjoyed any mental culture, either by miscellaneous reading, or by systematic study, take some interest in the reading of history. This interest is frequently intensified when the events considered transpired in the reader's own country, state, or town. Let those events have some connection with former generations of one's own blood, and the interest in them often becomes greatly augmented. Hence it is that the biographies of ancestors, which are merely personal history, afford so much delight to the ordinary mind. Such history commands one's attention upon its first perusal, while each subsequent reading but increases its attractiveness, as it discovers to the learner new facts and new features of the past, which find their counterpart in the present. History has its place, then, if it serve no other end than affording recreation to those who seek pleasure from its pages. It has, however, other

aims than to gratify curiosity or desire for mere pleasure. It affords instruction, and of the most valuable sort. This is true of general history; it is no less true, in a measure, of the history of particular times and of special individuals.

In writing the following pages, I have hoped to render some little service to my relatives, by gathering together and arranging in some order, what I have learned concerning the history of the family to which we belong. Every source of information that I could render available, I have drawn from, and I take this opportunity respectfully and gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of all who have in any way assisted me in gaining information. I am specially indebted to Mrs. Nelson Curtis, and to Mr. George Curtis and family, of Jamaica Plain, to Mr. Joseph Tucker of Boston Highlands, to the courtesy of the City Clerk and of the City Register of Boston, and to the Massachusetts Genealogical and Historical Society, for valuable aid.

If the following sketch seems disconnected and desultory in any respect, let it be remembered that it has been written during the intervals of hard work, as the writer could find time, while the facts have been gleaned from many different sources.

MILLARD M. PARKER, A. M.

AUGUST 13TH, 1879.

## THE HISTORY OF A FAMILY.

SCARBOROUGH PARKER was born in Roxbury, Mass., Sept. 3d, 1767. His father was a farmer of the town, who carefully trained his six children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." As was the custom of the pious folk of his time, he taught his children the Shorter Catechism, and, according to the rules of the church, consecrated them in early life, by holy baptism, unto the Lord. It is not hard to conjecture, then, with considerable certainty, how this Scarborough spent his youth. No doubt those early years were not without event, but there has been no written word preserved to tell to us the story of that period of his career. He was a lad of only seven years of age when the great war for American independence was inaugurated, at the battle of Lexington. The next seven years were years of terrible excitement, of intense activity, of painful sacrifices to all the United Colonies of America, and to none more so than the colony of Massachusetts. No town, it is safe to say, was more fully identified with the war, or felt more keenly its direful ef-

jects, than our ancestral town of Roxbury, from Maine to Florida. It was a time when ordinary business was interrupted, when schools were suspended, when every available loyal man either shouldered his musket for the field, or lived in constant readiness to go forth, at his country's biddings, at a moment's warning. Roxbury was the scene of many of the important events of the earlier period of the Revolution, and the whole town was devoted to the purposes of war.

Amid scenes of thrilling interest, scenes that in their nature were calculated to develop the sterner elements of character, hardiness, courage in the midst of great danger, patriotism that counted no sacrifice too great to place on the altar of a menaced country,—amid scenes like these our ancestor spent his boyhood.

Probably he continued his studies at the parish school, as he had opportunity, which, with the training he received at home prepared him for the duties, public and private, of his after life. When he had begun life for himself, and had married (Hannah Goding) he changed his residence from Roxbury to Cambridge, where he kept a public house. This was not an ordinary inn or tavern, but was designed to accommodate parties from Boston when they went out to Cambridge on pleasure excursions. The house in which he lived, and in which some of his children were born, was standing, though in a remodeled state, at a very recent date.

Eighty-one years ago last May, that is, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-eight, he moved his household effects and family to Jay, Maine. The region of country to which this pilgrimage was made, was then for the most part a wilderness of woods. Maine belonged then and for twenty-two years afterward to Massachusetts, this Colony having purchased it for six thousand dollars, of the heirs of Gorges, a man who obtained a grant of the country two years after the landing of the Pilgrims. Scarborough Parker, therefore, had removed only to a more remote section of his native colony.

It must have seemed like an exile to a far distant land, for travelling in those days, to any distance, involved great labor and considerable time. As yet no railroads had been built, and steamboats were unknown. Travelling upon the water was performed on slow-sailing boats, subject to the caprices of wind and weather; and on land the mode of conveyance was on horseback, by the lumbering stage-coach, or by the slower ox-team.

Embarking on one of the barges that plied between Boston and Hallowell, with all his household goods, family, and live stock, probably with a supply of food material, provided with the forethought and liberality which has ever characterized the family in their care of their households, he sailed to Hallowell. Arriving there he yoked his oxen to his strong white oak cart, upon which

were placed his worldly possessions, and slowly made his way to the town that was to be his home.

Laborious indeed must have been this journey, for the roads in those days led directly over the summit of every hill that chanced to lie in the line of its direction, for it was upon these hills the early settlers made their homes, considering that the land was better adapted to tillage and pasturage than the lowlands, and with pure water to use which flowed from every hillside, more healthful for their families. No wonder that the barrel of beef which he had brought from home — Cambridge — from which the brine had been taken to lighten the load, should have been found tainted when the journey was completed, though the barrel of pork had been preserved unhurt.

He first took up his abode in the house of Major Stone, another pioneer, which stood near by where the Major Stone mansion now stands, at Stone's Corner, and was one of the first houses in the locality. This house was built in the form of barracks, or sheds, with only one roof, and with rooms arranged in a long tier.

He did not spend many years here, however, for, possessing himself of a farm which was mostly woodland we presume, a short distance to the north of the Stone farm, he commenced life in his new home. His mother having died, his father, who had lived with him about five years in Massachusetts, followed him to his wilderness home, perform-

ing the entire journey on horseback. It is an interesting fact that the horse upon which he made this journey, was the second horse ever owned in the town of Jay.

It is difficult for us of the present generation to conceive of the severe toil, and that, too, in the midst of great privations, which was necessary, in order for the early settlers to subdue the roughnesses of nature, and render the forest-clad, rock-bound hills of Jay, a fit and convenient dwelling-place for themselves and their posterity. Where now the eye rests upon green fields, upon "pastures clothed with flocks," upon overflowing barns, and snug cottages nestling fondly among orchards of abundant fruit, our fathers saw naught save the primeval forest. But with dauntless courage and unwavering perseverance, they set to work to bring under their control the wilderness lands to which they had penetrated.

Scarborough Parker engaged vigorously in this task of farm clearing, and soon saw his work crowned with success, for after a year or two he was able to raise all that was needed to support his then growing family.

There were born to him, twelve children, two of whom died in infancy. The career of the remaining ten, who became of age, will be briefly sketched in the following pages. His care over his family was ever faithful and tender.

Possessed of a deeply religious nature, in early



manhood he gave his heart to God, and throughout his subsequent years he was noted for his fervent piety. Even before he made a public profession of religion, upon an occasion of visiting her who afterwards became his wife, he is said to have prayed with her, manifesting in this way his purpose to live a godly life and showing that the principle of a religious life was in his heart. He was an excellent disciplinarian in his family, instructing his children in the rudiments of a secular and religious education, and preparing them for the active business of life. He was methodical in his plans for the future of his children and marked out a calling, or trade, for each. Joel was to be a tanner. Hannah he designed for a tailoress, and these he sent away to learn their trades. What the others were to do, according to his plans, does not appear.

He found his church home with the Methodists, who, though at that time a comparatively feeble sect, were nevertheless, even at that remote period, giving evidence that the doctrines they held, and the lives they lived in conformity to their creed, contained the elements of a mighty moral power which was destined to revolutionize and largely control the religious thought of many coming generations. Scarborough Parker was the first class-leader of the M. E. church in Jay, and held the position ten years, or until his death. He also held civil office, and at the time of his death was first selectman of his town.

He contracted a fever of which he died May 13th, 1814. Had he lived five months longer he would have completed his forty-seventh year. His dust reposes in the old cemetery on Jay Hill, where a tombstone marks his burial place. I cannot turn from this brief biography of our ancestor without paying some slight though grateful tribute of respect to his memory. No comment of mine, however, could half as well express the true nobility of his character as simply to point to the lives of his posterity; for making due allowance for over-estimates of ancestral merit, growing out of family pride or conceit, it must be acknowledged by all that the descendants of Scarborough Parker may safely challenge comparison with any other family, in all that makes solid worth.

He possessed in a marked degree and transmitted to his descendants the cardinal virtues of industry, integrity, and faith in God. While we gratefully cherish his memory may we seek to emulate his virtues, and transmit, undiminished, to those who follow us, the precious legacy we have received, of righteous principles and holy lives.

I pass now to his family record. Of his children who reached maturity, the oldest was Hannah, who was born in Cambridge, Mass., May 27th, 1796. She married October 9th, 1820, William Sylvester of Charlestown, Mass., a ship carpenter by trade. They lived in Charlestown several years, where were born three of their six children,

after which they moved to Jay. Their first child was a son, William Parker, born in Charlestown, July 2d, 1821. On leaving the common school he studied at Kent's Hill, afterward graduating at the Bowdoin Medical College, and has since practised medicine. His present home is in Sherborn, Mass. He married Clara A. White of Brunswick, Me. Elizabeth Ann was born in Charlestown, July 29th, 1823. Married John Sime of East Abington, Mass., who was a currier by trade, now deceased. Harriet Maria Sylvester was born at Charlestown, April 21st, 1825. Married Nelson Pike of Jay, April 2d, 1851. Frances Cordelia Sylvester was born in Jay, August 4th, 1829. Married Rev. Cornelius Stone of the M. E. Conference in June, 1851, and after his death married Corydon K. Haskell, in 1873. Helen Juliana Sylvester was born in Jay, Sept. 26th, 1834. Married William H. Randall of Pownal, Me., in 1861. Died in Riverside, Cal., Oct. 1878. Hannah J. Sylvester was born in Jay, Nov. 30th, 1835. Married Coryden K. Haskell in 1857. Died July 28th, 1872.

This family attended school at Kent's Hill, and were all teachers, I think. They had each a family of children. Hannah Parker Sylvester lived to the advanced age of nearly eighty years, and her life was one of great usefulness and deep piety.

Susannah Parker was born in Cambridge, Aug. 27th, 1797. Married William Grose of Jay in

1817. Their children were William, born Oct. 20th, 1818, married Martha Chase of Jay, and on her death was again married. He is a grocer in Cambridge.\* Hanna Parker Grose was born in 1820, married William Bryant of Jay. The next three children of Susannah Parker Grose died in childhood. Emily was born in 1830, married Charles Fessenden of Boston, a merchant. Harriet A. was born Nov. 1st, 1833, married Elisha Chenery, M. D., of Boston. Susan was born in 1835, married Lewis Rich and now resides in Wollaston, Mass. Emerson, the last child, died in youth. Several members of this family attended school at Kent's Hill. They have families.

Joel Parker was born March 10th, 1799, married Lucinda Noyes of Jay. They had born to them nine children, of whom six were boys, three dying in infancy. Of those who reached adult age the order of birth and names were as follows: Melvina, Monroe, George, Helena, Henrietta, and Curtis. Melvina married Joseph Taylor of Hermon, Me.; Monroe, Lydia Taylor of Bangor, Me.; George, Mary A. Grant of Hermon, Me.; Helena, Rodney Taylor of Hermon, Me.; Henrietta, George K. Taylor of Hampden, Me.; and Curtis, Julia Freeman of South Boston. It is a very remarkable fact that the wives of two sons and the husbands of the three daughters were all born in Hermon. One of them, speaking of this unusual event, said: "Well

\* Since deceased.



may we all say, 'blessed are the dews of old Hermon.' Of this noble family only three sons remain. There are several children in the families.

Henry Parker was born May 8th, 1801. Married Nancy Tuck of Fayette, Me. One son was born, named Henry D. Nancy Tuck Parker died in middle life. Henry Parker then married Mrs. Patience Harrington, widow of Rev. James Harrington of the Maine Conference. He died in Jay, February 18th, 1872. He was a man of distinguished piety and of marked intellectual abilities, and at his death was mourned as few men are.

Jonathan Parker † was born August 1st, 1802, and was never married. He lost his reason in early life in striving to gain an education under great difficulties; though he recovered his mind afterward, and gave great promise of a successful career, having gained the esteem of his townsmen, he subsequently became insane. May our Lord have given a ray of Divine light to the darkened mind that he may be prepared to enjoy Heaven, after the long sorrowful life here.

Aligail Parker was born April 14th, 1804. Married Daniel Grose † of Jay. One child was born, Abbie, who died Nov. 10th, 1851, aged twenty-one years, nine months. Her mother died at the early age of twenty-six years.

Cyrus Parker was born Aug. 17th, 1805. Mar-

\* Married Clara C. Grinnell of Exeter, Me., in 1881.

† Deceased in 1884.

ried Harriet Norton of North Livermore, Me., in 1839. To them were born eight children: Ellen E., Edwin C., Charles M., Annie M., Bradford F., Horace W., Millard M., and M. Cora. Horace N. died Dec. 18th, 1877, in his thirtieth year. Ellen married G. K. Taylor of Hampden, Me.; Edwin C., Sarah P. Pierce of Waukon, Iowa; Charles M., Mary E. Hatch of Sanford, Me.; Millard M., M. Josephine Miles of Westminster, Mass.; Cora M., J. S. Barrett of Walla Walla, Washington Territory. The members of this family have all been teachers, and three have graduated from college. Nearly all attended school at Kent's Hill, covering a period of many years.

Rhoda Parker was born June 6th, 1808. Married Jonathan Pike of Livermore, in March, 1831. Their children were Henry Augustus who died at the age of five years; Rosaline who now lives at the homestead in East Livermore, Me., Jonathan, Charles Wesley, Rhoda Ella, Willard Parker, and Frances Eva. Jonathan married Jane Bamford of Fayette, Me.; Charles Wesley, Mary J. Simpson of Virginia; Rhoda Ella, Grenville C. Emery, A. M., of Boston; Willard P., Katie M. Blair of Albany, N. Y. This family enjoyed the privileges of the Seminary and Female College at Kent's Hill, and F. Eva graduated from the N. E. Conservatory of Music, Boston. Willard Parker received the degree of M. D. from North-western University, and is a physician in Albany, N. Y.

Harriet Parker was born May 24th, 1810, and married Moses Stone of Jay, 1836. They had five sons and five daughters, two of the latter dying in infancy. The names of their children are as follows: Cyrus P., Moses C., Asaph, Etta C., Emma A., George W., Abbie F., Frank P. Asaph died in Iowa in 1869. It is a remarkable fact that seven of this family graduated from Maine Colleges. Three sons graduated from Bowdoin College and three daughters from Kent's Hill College. Frank P. graduated from the Maine State College. Cyrus P. is a member of the East Maine Conference; \* he married Celia Cleaves. Moses C. is a physician in N. Y. Etta married Prof. Willabe Haskell of New Haven, Conn. All of these have been teachers.

Amos Parker, the youngest child of Scarborough and Hannah Parker, was born Oct. 20th, 1811. Married Sarah Rich of Jay in 1840. She lived less than two years after her marriage. He married for a second wife Jane H. Tuck, of Fayette, Me. By the first marriage was born Sarah Elizabeth, who married in 1863, Octavius Stevens of Fayette. The children of Amos Parker and Jane H. Parker are named Edward G., Henry Clay, Emma J., Jesse T., Florilla H., John Wesley, Carrie Stevens and Walter.† John Wesley died in 1875. This family have enjoyed the privileges of Seminary instruction and several have taught schools. Henry

\* Since transferred to the Maine Conference. † Died in 1884.

C. has been for a long term of years, a teacher and superintendent of schools in Nebraska. Jesse T. entered Wesleyan University and was obliged to leave College on account of feeble health, when a Junior.

Thus in brief outlines, I have given a record of the immediate family of Scarborough Parker. It would be interesting to trace the history still farther, and speak of the families into which his children married, and thus to do would in no way detract from the dignity of this sketch. It would be gratifying, also, to speak more fully of his children's children, the most of whom have reached the estate of manhood and womanhood. They are too numerous to discuss at length, within the limits of one short sketch, furthermore it would be pleasant to say a few words concerning his children's children's children, a considerable number of whom might be found, giving guarantee that the line is not soon to fail. Of his children, suffice it to say, they have shown themselves worthy, to a good degree, to be the descendants of a man in whom were plainly recognized the noblest traits of character. They have been men and women of strictest integrity, of unflinching loyalty to their sense of duty, and of uncompromising morality. They cannot point to marvelously brilliant achievements, to high official station in State or Nation, which they have occupied. They have found their places among the quietly active portions of society,

the true aristocrats of earth, who are not above humble toil, if it be honorable. In this sphere they have been diligent and faithful, making themselves felt by the communities in which they have lived, impressing the image of noble character upon those who have felt their influence. For many generations, nay, even to the remotest period of their known history, the great majority have been farmers, thus belonging to that class of society that has been the safeguard of the nation in times of danger, its glory, largely, in times of war.

The men have been men of sound common sense, of good education, of practical wisdom, fitted to perform the duties of the offices they have been called to fill. The women have been well calculated by natural endowments, and by education, for their respective positions in life. They have nobly exemplified the character of a good wife, as set forth by Solomon, "She looketh well to the ways of her own household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." While farming has been largely the calling of the family, other pursuits have occupied not a few, while several have entered professional life. It may be noted in this connection that while each of the other learned professions has had representatives in the line, the legal profession has had none. Let each draw his own inference.

I point with pride to the interest which the family have ever taken in the cause of education.

Every family in the line has enjoyed the best school advantages their times afforded, and those advantages have not infrequently been created, in large part, by the exertions of the families themselves. Not always have the facilities for education been easily available, but self-sacrifice, careful forethought, and pains-taking perseverance have brought excellent advantages within reach of all. While nearly all connected with the line have availed themselves of superior school opportunities, many have pursued their studies in seminaries, professional schools and colleges.

A dozen or more have taken the degree of A. B., the most of whom have received A. M. in course, while four have the title of M. D. The gospel ministry has its representatives, one of whom has won the distinguished title of D. D. Enough has been said on this point to show that education has not been held in low esteem by the descendants of our ancestor. Enough, it would also seem to justify the quaint though not very elegant observation of Scarborough Parker's father, that "there was something in Scarborough's children's heads besides lice."

Leaving now the particular discussion of Scarborough Parker's descendants, let us look for a little time, into the record of his ancestry. In the early part of this sketch allusion was made to his father Jonathan, and how after his wife's death he lived with his son in Cambridge, and then

removed to Jay. Jonathan Parker was a very sympathetic, large-souled man who gave freely of his earthly substance to the suffering poor about him: When the Revolution broke out he owned a farm in Roxbury. I have already mentioned the fact, that Roxbury was the scene of many important events in the early part of the war. The American troops were quartered there, and the whole region was devoted to the purposes of war. At this time of general suffering and distress, Jonathan Parker mortgaged his farm to raise means that he might assist his needy relatives and neighbors. Unable to meet the conditions of this mortgage, he lost his farm. There is a report, also, that having dealings with the Colonial government he was paid in Continental currency, which proved worthless, and that thus he lost property. Be this as it may, he had no home of his own, for after the death of his last wife he went to live with his son Scarborough, as I have shown. His first wife was Abigail Baker, whom he married in 1752. His second wife was Hannah Weld, whom he married in Dec., 1774. By this it is plain that Scarborough was the son of the first wife. When the war broke out, Jonathan Parker was forty-seven years old. He was an ardent whig and was not afraid to manifest his indignation at the oppressive measures of the British Parliament against the American Colonies. An incident or two, in his life, will best illustrate his political sentiments.

He had occasion one day to go into Boston after a load of manure to put upon his farm. Adjoining the stable from which he took the dressing was a British gun-house, in which were four cannon belonging to Paddock's Company of Artillery. He secreted two of these cannon in his load of manure and carried them to Muddy Pond woods, near Dedham. The other two were similarly disposed of by a Dorchester farmer, Minot by name. Next day a company of red-coats passed through Roxbury, searching for the missing cannon. They were a part of a batalion of five hundred men who were scattered in various directions, for the same purpose. All, however, were unsuccessful, and these guns afterwards did good service for the Americans. Two of them were recaptured by the British at the Battle of Bunker Hill, but the others may now be seen in the chamber at the top of Bunker Hill Monument, appropriately inscribed.

After the British Government had laid a tax on tea, the Americans refused to import it into their colonies. At Boston the people insisted upon the tea being carried back to England. This the British authorities refused to do; and then the people sought other ways to rid themselves of the commodity. One day an immense public meeting was held in the Old South Church, or in Faneuil Hall, it matters not which, when an address was delivered by the eloquent Warren, afterward a general. He was a native of Roxbury, and Jona-



than Parker listened to his townsman's address and that night he and quite a number of other Roxbury men, and some from elsewhere, disguised themselves as Indians and boarded the tea ship, throwing overboard *three hundred and forty-two* chests of tea. One of his neighbors, "farmer Heath," as he was called, did not keep his promise to make one of the number, so shortly after the event, Jonathan Parker and some of his neighbors went to Heath's house one evening, fully determined to break down his door. Our relative, being a very muscular man, was appointed to wield the club. Raising the heavy cudgel to strike a vigorous blow, the door opened, and mistress Heath, with great suavity, asked them to walk in and partake of refreshments, excusing her husband's failure to keep his promise, on the plea of illness. Whereupon they turned about and marched home, crestfallen.

In his family were six children, about whom I have learned but little except of Scarborough, beyond the names of some of them. One daughter married William Munroe, another Jedediah Munroe, and lived in Concord, Mass. One married a Mr. Brown, and one Mr. Jonas Goding. They bore such common family names as Hannah, Rhoda and the like. It would seem that previous to removing to Cambridge, he lived with his sister, Catharine Curtis, whose granddaughter Miss Catharine Parker Curtis, who died in Roxbury in 1877,

at an advanced age, was quite noted for her antiquarian tastes and researches. From her papers many of the data of this sketch have been taken. He preferred to follow the fortunes of his son, however, and for about nine years lived with him in Cambridge, and Jay. He also lies buried on Jay Hill. His father's name was Timothy Parker, who married Sept. 8th, 1718, Mary Scarborough. We find here an explanation of the name of Scarborough Parker; it was the maiden name of his grandmother. Her family was a very influential one in Roxbury, she probably being the daughter of Deacon Samuel Scarborough, but a family which has had no representative in Roxbury since 1800. In 1720, Timothy Parker bought the house now standing on the easterly corner of Boylston and Centre streets, Jamaica Plain. This house must be one hundred and fifty-nine years old, to say the least. A few years since it came into the possession of Mr. George Scarborough Curtis, one of the wealthy and worthy proprietors of Quincy Market, whose grandmother was the youngest daughter of Timothy and Mary Parker.

Timothy and Mary had nine children. Jonathan, Timothy, Jr., Catherine, Bethiah, and five others, two boys, three girls. Bethiah married Cabel Steadman for her first husband, and at his death married John Williams, whose grandson, Moses Williams, now lives at Jamaica Plain. All her children by her first husband died, but by her sec-

ond marriage there were three daughters, noted for their beauty. One married a Frenchman, and two Connecticut soldiers, and these were very poor. Another of Timothy's daughters married a Cheney, another a Gower, a name that stood high in Roxbury for many generations. The sisters used to gather at the house of Catherine, at nine o'clock on the morning of election day, to play whist. Their sister Cheney would not play, for she considered it wicked to play cards when they had to wear glasses. Their minister and wife thought differently it seems, for they always joined them in their Election Day game of whist. Catherine Parker was an expert spinner on the little wheel, and a very superior woman, we are told, in point of intellect, possessed of a strong and discriminating mind, with great power of wit and repartee, and universally beloved by old and young. She began to keep shop of English goods when only sixteen years of age, and continued in the business several years after her marriage.

Timothy Parker, Jr., was her youngest brother, whose trade was that of a wheelwright. During the French and Indian war, 1754-63, he received a lieutenant's commission and went to the war. He was at the town now called Kingston, Canada, when it fell into the hands of the Americans and British. The town was given over to pillage and Lieutenant Parker was supposed then to have enriched himself. He moved to Sturbridge, Mass.,

—thence to Holden, Mass., where he owned farms before the Revolution, and there we will leave him for the present, while we discuss other people of the line of Parkers, after relating one incident in his life. This incident shows that the Parkers heeded well, in those early days, the injunction — “be ye fruitful and multiply.” Timothy, Jr., and his youngest sister, Catherine — or Katy, as they called her, — once made a visit to Reading, Mass., where their relatives lived, and where their father had lived before moving to Roxbury. In the afternoon there was a raising, an event of great interest in those days, and there he met several of his cousins. In the evening they gave a sort of party at which no less than sixty cousins met together.

Timothy Parker, Senior, was one of fourteen children, and his grandfather, the emigrant, had that number also. All the family of Timothy and Mary Parker married in early life, except Catherine, the youngest daughter, who was thirty-six years when married. All except two settled within a mile of the homestead. Their mother long survived their father and lived all the last years of her life with Catherine, she being the last to stay at home and care for her mother. Many interesting incidents in Catherine's life are recorded, but only a few can here be related. One, showing the traditional hospitality of the Parker blood is pleasing to recall. During the war, or during the siege



of Boston, the American soldiers were quartered in her house. She gave up the entire house, with the exception of her shop and one chamber, to their use. In the Spring they sowed a field of barley for her husband, and when it was fit for use she invited them to eat barley cakes and butter; buying two pounds of butter a week. She tells us they enjoyed it while it lasted and then went without. It should be remembered this was a time of great scarcity in provisions. Catharine said she never had so much company in her life as when she dispensed the barley cakes and butter. Many a time her husband was unable to buy a dinner in Boston, though he was a man of means. The hungry multitudes could not get enough to eat, and marketmen were not allowed to enter the city.

The Parkers of that period were plain of speech and had a good opinion of themselves. One day Catherine went to drink tea at the house of mistress Peleg Heath, accompanied by another lady. Now Peleg Heath was a brother of General Heath of Revolutionary fame, and there was no little family pride on account of the relation, especially on the part of Peleg's wife. The ladies wore their white lawn aprons, which was considered a proper thing to do. They noticed mistress Heath had on a calico apron, while a nicer white one hung over the back of a chair. Mistress Heath kept glancing out of the windows when one of the ladies asked her what the matter was. "Oh, nothing," said

she, "I was looking to see if *sister General* was coming, if she was I was going to put on my white apron." "Bless me!" said Catherine, "are n't we as good as *sister General*?"

Catherine's courage would have done credit to a member of the Home Guards. The neighbors were greatly terrified at one time by the rumors that the British were coming out from Boston, and they tried hard to persuade her to flight, telling her she would delay until the British killed her. With great coolness she replied, "when I hear the British are out as far as the lower meeting-house, I will have my horse harnessed, for I know I can travel as fast as they can march."

She was not exempt from trial, as the following incident will prove. Her hospitality was sometimes abused and her patience sorely tried by her sisters' husbands, three of whom had the fixed custom of visiting her in one of her busiest seasons. She had her aged mother to care for, and her shop to tend, and so, we are told, never found time to bake her Thanksgiving pies until the day before she wished to use them. One year that day was exceedingly stormy, and leaving her shop earlier than usual, she was congratulating herself on having an opportunity to bake her pies untroubled by her visitors. She spoke to her mother of her good fortune when suddenly an ox-team, driven by a negro, stopped at her door, and the three brothers-in-law, shaking the snow from their homespun

coats, came into the house, expecting the customary hot supper. Their notions of negro slavery were rather different, in those early days, from what Massachusetts people now hold, for several of our relatives of anti-Revolutionary times were *slave* owners. In Catharine's house there was a fireplace so large that she could stand in the corner of it and do her baking with her oven close at hand. Loudon, their black man, a slave captured at the siege of Louisburg, Island of Cape Breton, and brought to Massachusetts by a Roxbury man, used to sit on a log in one corner of the huge fireplace, while his master would occasionally keep him company in the opposite corner. This old kitchen, with its fireplace sealed up, according to modern notions of economy, may still be seen, giving many an evidence of its great antiquity. I find very plausible proof that this was the house owned and occupied, in 1720, by Timothy Parker, grandfather of Scarborough Parker.

It will be observed from this sketch that the genealogy of our line has been traced to within one generation of the founding of the family, in America. In the early manuscript records of the Roxbury church, now in the care of the Massachusetts Genealogical and Historical Society, I find the single entry that Nicholas Parker, with his wife Ann, and his two children, Mary and Nicholas, came to this country in 1633. The record does not state whence he came nor where he set-

tled. The name Parker occurs in the earliest records of Roxbury, and it may be that Nicholas Parker settled there, but it seems likely enough that he settled in some adjoining town, and that the church record item above mentioned was entered by some descendant, who afterward lived in Roxbury. I can easily trace the family line to the time when they lived in Reading, not far from 1700, and know something of them one generation earlier, though I cannot speak with authority concerning their home. If Nicholas Parker was the first of the line in America, then only one generation remains to be accounted for, to complete the family genealogy to its beginning in this country. Should subsequent investigation prove that I am mistaken in reference to the emigrant's name, yet I think it may be safely asserted that the family is of English descent.

There has been a tradition to that effect handed down to the latest times. The great part of those who came to this country, or to the shores of Massachusetts between 1620-1635, inclusive, were from England directly or indirectly, some having lived in Holland a short time, where they fled to escape the religious persecutions that were rife in England. Many who settled in the vicinity of Boston, and who came over in 1633-5, were the celebrated Nazing Christians. This was specially true of the settlers of Roxbury. There is presumptive evidence in this that our ancestor was a

Nazing man, or, perhaps a west of England man, as a few came from there at the same time with the Nazing people. Nazing is a rural village in Essex county, England, and comprises the north-west corner of Waltham Half-hundred. It is on the river Lee, twenty miles east from London. Its old parish church may be regarded as the mother of the Roxbury church, the original Roxbury church. Its records contain the names of many families prominent in Roxbury's earliest history, and of many related to the Parkers, though whether our name is there or not I cannot ascertain. If I am correct in my conclusions, our ancestor was not a Pilgrim, as the Dissenters were called, who landed at Plymouth Rock, in 1620, but a Puritan, of the number of those who, under Winthrop and others, settled the towns of Massachusetts Bay. The probability is, then, that our ancestor came from the vicinity of London, though there is a possibility he came from the west of England.

In concluding this sketch it seems eminently proper to say a few words concerning the town, which for three generations at least, was the home of our ancestors. Roxbury is one of the most famous towns in all New England, in the great names that grace her annals. She gave birth to three generals of the Revolution, while no less than ten of the Governors of Massachusetts have been natives or residents of Roxbury. Among the generals was

Joseph Warren, whose stirring eloquence so roused the patriotism of our ancestor, that he risked his life to rid the people of the obnoxious tea, in Boston Harbor. She is called the banner town of the Revolution, having furnished three companies of minute-men at the battle of Lexington, one of which was the first raised in defence of American Liberty. In the ecclesiastical, as well as political history of America, Roxbury has an important place having been the home of many eminent clergyman. John Eliot, the great apostle to the Indians, was born here. William Pynchon, who opposed the Calvinistic view of the atonement, the first to do so, in this country, and Robert Calef, who fought against the Salem witchcraft delusion, were citizens of Roxbury. During the Revolutionary war Generals Washington and Lafayette were familiar guests at several Roxbury homes.

The style of living in our ancestral town in the olden time, as in all the earlier towns, was very simply compared with the present. Only a few of the wealthier people could have negro servants. Ordinarily the servants were American men and women, and were on an equality with the people they served. In the ordinary farm house, such as our ancestors occupied there were few rooms and scanty furniture. Says a writer upon this point—"the parlor was at once kitchen, bedroom and hall; the settle or wooden settee took the place of the sofa; clean white sand served for a carpet."

Domestic life in an agricultural community of the last century, in New England, was simple, laborious, and economical.

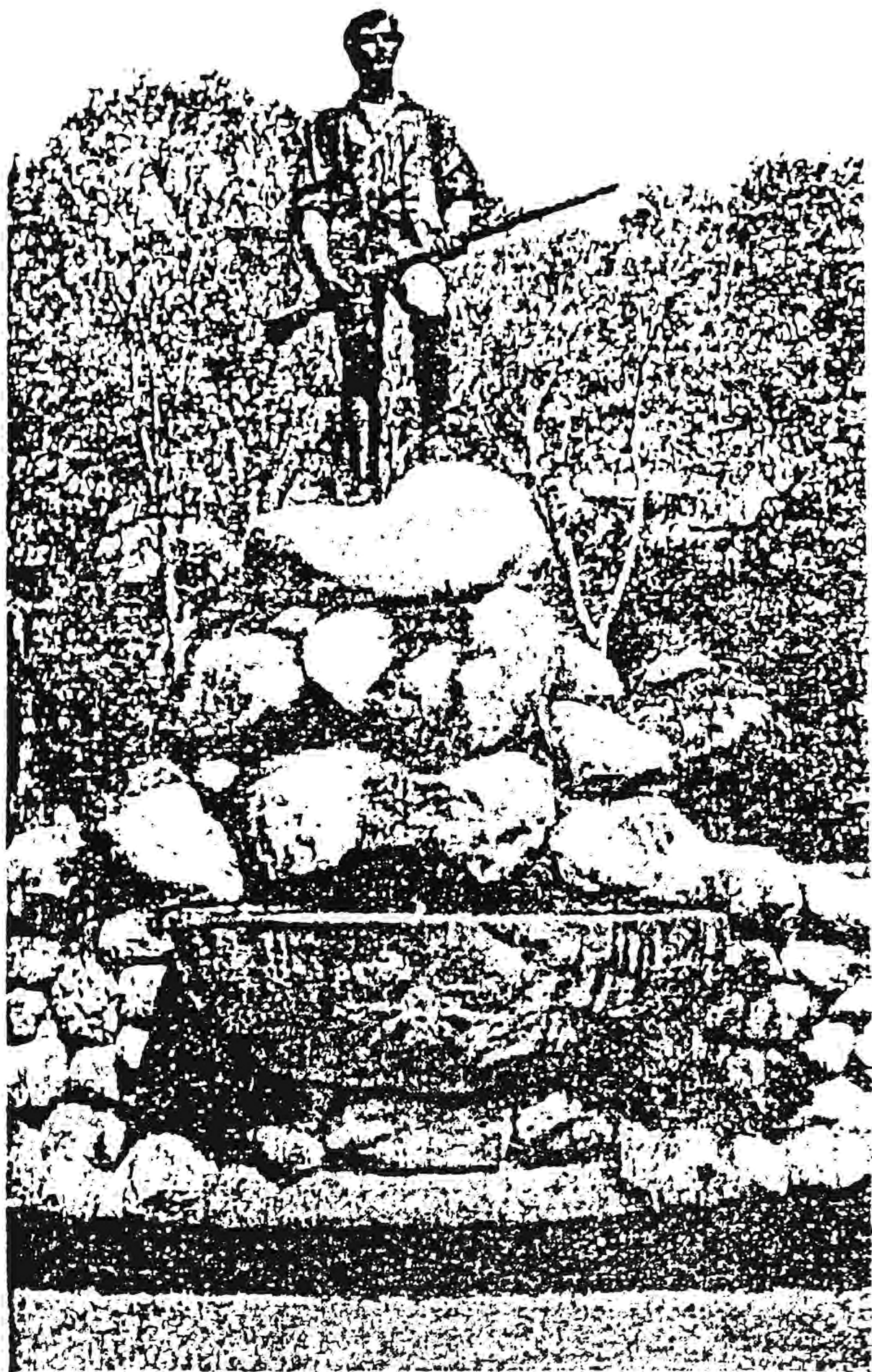
Titles in Roxbury's early history were matters of grave importance. Military officers were always addressed by their appropriate titles. Mr. and Mrs. were never applied except to those of the best condition, including ministers and their wives. Goodman and Goodwife were the names given to the middle class. Strict measures were taken to ensure attendance at church, and as late as 1772, Roxbury fined people for being absent from meeting on Lord's day; brawling was not tolerated. History tells us that for the "evil practises of sundry persons, by exorbitancy of the tongue in railing and scolding, the offender was to be gagged, or sit in a ducking stool and dipped over head and ears, three times, in some convenient place of fresh or salt water, as the court or magistrate should meet." Roxbury is a mother of towns, as many as fifteen prosperous New England communities, including the cities of Worcester and Springfield, having been founded or largely settled by her citizens. The town of Woodstock, Conn., recently made famous by the great Fourth of July celebrations there, was one of these towns, and among its settlers was Samuel Scarborough, whose daughter, I believe, was the wife of Timothy Parker, Senior.

Roxbury received its name from the abundance of rocks there, known in all later years as the

Roxbury pudding stone. It is much used for building churches, and its peculiar color and composition give a very ancient appearance to buildings constructed therefrom.

Thus you have heard a few scraps of the history of our forefathers. The record is one we need not blush to own. We forbear to boast, but it is our undisputed privilege to feel whatever gratitude and satisfaction we may, as we contemplate the past of our family line. May a just pride, which each of us may feel with perfect propriety, at being counted with so honorable a family, stimulate us to new and persistent endeavor to perpetuate untarnished the good name and well-earned fame of our ancestors. And may He, who changes not with times or generations, so keep our minds and hearts in the knowledge and love of Himself, that we, with all who have gone before us, and all who shall follow us, may enjoy association with each other, and with the blessed in the life to come.





# NOTES. Parker Family Direct Male Line

Nicholas Parker 1633  
 Timothy Parker  
 Jonathan Parker d 1798, Jay Me  
 Scarborough Parker 1767 - d 1814 Jay Me  
 Henry Parker May 8, 1801 - Feb 18, 1872 Jay Me  
 Henry Dearborn Parker  
 Alfred Henry Parker May 30, 1916  
 Jeffrey Dearborn Parker July 30, 1942  
 Jay Stacy Parker June 3, 1963

↓ Kelly Shannon Parker May 8, 1960  
 Sheraleen Shane Parker April 12, 1960

Kelly Shannon Parker sister of  
 Jay and daughter of Jeffrey  
 Parker was born on her  
 great great grand father's birthday  
 May 8<sup>th</sup>, (Henry Parker)

Jay Stacy Parker was  
 named for the town in  
 Maine where the Parkers first  
 lived in 1798

## NOTES.

In 1718 Timothy Parker married Mary  
 Scarborough. They were the parents of Jonathan  
 and Catherine. Catherine married a Curtis  
 and Curtis was also the maiden name of  
 one of my grandmothers. It is the middle  
 name of my father and the first name of  
 his brother. re Sophia Curtis who married  
 Samuel Smith at Wiscasset ex 1795. Was there  
 a connection? Phoebe Smith Parker Brice  
 1993

— — — Timothy Kent Parker 1943  
 Sheila Louise Parker

> all female members of the Parker  
 family are eligible to join the D.A.R.  
 (daughters of the American Revolution)

Statue at Lexington of Cpt Jonathan  
 Parker? Was it the same Jonathan  
 Parker or belongs to this family??